

App. No. 09/556,279  
Amendment dated August 6, 2004  
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2004

### REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-33, 36-42, 44, 46 and 47 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-33, 36-42, 44, 46 and 47 are rejected. Claim 20 is amended. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claims 1-8, 12-20, 26-33, 36-42, 44, 46 and 47 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,477,150 issued to *Maggenti* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,264 issued to *Christy*. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1, teaches "adding information associated with the device to an announced device table if the information is not stored in the acquired device table and the device is unacquired, wherein the announced device table includes information associated with discovered but unacquired devices." The Office Action cites *Christy* to overcome this limitation (Col. 6, line 40 to col. 7, line 42; col. 11 lines 2-57; Figs. 3A and 3B).

*Christy* teaches redirecting network management messages in a cluster of network devices. The network devices are logically configured as a single cluster. A cluster commander redirects and translates network management messages from management consoles destined for member devices so that the messages are processed by the appropriate cluster device. Responses to network management messages from the cluster device are received by the commander device and redirected to the appropriate management console.

A simple network management protocol (SNMP) manager performs operations on a management information base (MIB). The MIB is a repository for information about device parameters and network data. An SNMP community is established between an SNMP agent and one or more SNMP managers. The community is identified by a string which enables redirection of network management requests and responses within a cluster of network devices. Each network device has one or more community strings which define the ability of others to read and write the MIB of that device. An SNMP request is received by the commander and it is either processed on the commander or redirected to a member switch.

*Christy* does not teach "adding information associated with the device to an announced device table if the information is not stored in the acquired device table and the device is

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unacquired, wherein the announced device table includes information associated with discovered but unacquired devices." Thus, *Christy* does not anticipate nor make obvious Applicants' Claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable and notice to that effect is solicited.

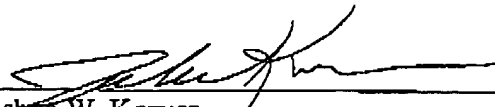
Claim 21 is directed to a method of communication, Claim 26 is directed to a system for supporting communication, Claim 39 is directed to a computer-readable medium, and Claim 46 is directed to a system for implementing a network of devices connected to a shared media. Claims 21, 26, 39 and 46 include substantially the same limitations as independent Claim 1. As stated above, Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable. Therefore, independent Claims 21, 26, 39 and 46 are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent Claim 1, and notice to that effect is solicited.

Claims 2-8, 10, 16-20, 22-25, 27-33, 36-38, 40-42, 44, and 47 are dependent on allowable base claims and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 21, 26, 39 and 46 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, pending Claims 1-8, 10, 12-33, 36-42, 44, 46 and 47 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated above and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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